

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed April 20, 2004, has been carefully reviewed. By the amendments presented above, the present application should now be in condition for formal allowance consistent with what is stated in such Office Action of April 20, 2004. Accordingly, formal allowance of the claims now pending, namely 4-8 and 10, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-8 and 10 have been allowed. Applicants accordingly understand that these claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under §§102 and 103. As these are the only claims now pending, the present application should be in condition for formal allowance.

Claim 3 has been objected to as containing an informality, and claims 3 and 9 have been rejected. While applicants do not necessarily agree with the PTO positions as expressed in the Office Action, applicants need not respond to these rejections at the present time in view of the cancellation of claims 3 and 9.

Applicants believe that all issues have been addressed and resolved above, whereby the present application

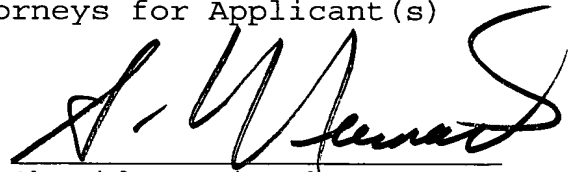
Appln. No. 09/646,349
Amd. dated April 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2004

should now be in condition for formal allowance. Such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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